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was so much more thickly wooded than at present, and that every possible precaution was taken to prevent Reynard's breaking covert.

We see by our text (pp. 36-37) that it was usual to course foxes with greyhounds, and although the passages referring to this are translated from G. de F. we know that this fox-coursing was as usual in England at this time as in France. We see from the above quoted instances that the Abbot of Waltham was expected to have greyhounds with him when fox-hunting, and that King John sent his greyhounds with foxhounds to hunt the fox. Turbervile's book, which has an original chapter on coursing, gives the following account of how to enjoy this sport. "To course at a Fox requireth none other Art, than to stand close and uppon a cleare wind on the outside of the covert by some bottome or place where it is likely that he will come out: and to give him head inough, for else he will turne backe againe, and there is no danger in giving of him head where their is plain ground for the slowest dogge that ever ran will overtake a Fox if he have field roome. Some use to watch a fox when he goeth out to his feede and to stand in the most likely places in a mooneshine night and so to course him: ... the forest coursing is when you hunt with hounds, to set your greyhounds underneath the wind very close in some bottom or little plaine, and there to course the fox when he cometh out. This course is short but it is dangerous, for often times a good greyhound is marred with a fox and therefore few men wil course a fox unless it be with old greyhounds which are brused dogs and which they make small accountt of " (Turb. 250).

Some other original remarks by Turbervile are worth quoting. To "the huntsmen who would have good pastime at this vermine" he gives instructions how to best stop the earths, then he continues: "The best hunting of the fox above ground is in January, February, and March. Yet you may hunt him from Alhallontide, untill Easter. When the leaves are falne, you shall best see your hounds hunting, and best find his earths. And also at the time the Foxes skin (which is the best part of him) is best in season. Againe the hounds doe best hunt a Foxe in the coldest weather, because he leaveth a very strong sent after him. Always set your Greyhounds on the outsides of the coverts underneth the wind, and let them stand close, cast of at the first but the third part of your kennell to find him: The rest you shall cause to be led up and downe the coverts, in pathes and high waies, to cast off unto their fellowes when he is found. It is not good to cast off too many hounds at once, because woods and coverts are full of sundry chaces, and so you should have your kennell undertake sundry beasts and lose your pastime. Let those which you cast off first be olde and stanch and sure hounds. And if you heare such a hound call on merily, you may cast off some other , to him, and when they run it with full cry, cast off the rest, and you shall heare good pastime."

This promises well, and the reader begins to imagine that after this fair beginning a good spin across country will be the wishedfor result, but a scramble among the underwood, and footing it along the paths and highways of the forest, was all one could hope for, as our author continues: "For a Foxe will not willingly depart out of the covert where he hath bin accustomed to ly, but will wheele about the thicks, and thereby make you much the better pastime" (Turb. pp. 192-193).

It was this hunting in covert that made Sir Thomas Elyot say in The Boke named the Governour (1531): "I disprayse not the huntynge of the foxe with rennynge houndes, but it is not to be compared to the other hunting in commoditie of exercise. Therfore it wolde be used in the deepe wynter, whan the other game is unseasonable."

And even if Reynard had ventured beyond the thicks, Sir T. Cockaine tells us that, "The old Foxe being well breathed is so forcible a chase, as every Huntsman his part is to hew him, or backe him into the Covert againe, when he offereth to breake the same, and to hallowe him and helpe the Hounds wheresoever he can, and to comfort them both with voyce and horne that all travailers passing that way may knowe that it is a Foxe that is hunted. And this tast I will give you of the flying of this chase, that the Author herof hath killed a Foxe distant from the Covert where hee was found, fourteene miles aloft the ground with Hounds."

Sir T. Cockaine, Knight, wrote his treatise in 1591, at which time the great woodlands which once covered England had for the greater part disappeared. One chronicler of those days bemoans that moors and fens occupy the places where oaks and elms once flourished, and says that unless landowners plant trees, it would not be long before there cease to be any (Holinshed's Chronicles). With the disappearance of woods, foxes seem to have become scarce, for the same chronicler tells us that, "Of foxes we have some, but no great store, and also badgers in our sandie or light grounds. . . . Certes if I may freelie saye what I thinke I suppose that these two kinds (I mean foxes and badgers) are rather preserved by gentlemen to hunt and have pastime withall at their own pleasures, than otherwise suffered to live, as not able to be destroyed because of their great numbers. For such is the scantitie of them here in England in comparison of the plentie that is to be seen in other countries, and so earnestlie are the inhabitants bent to root them out, that except it had beene to bear thus with the recreation of their superiors (in this behalf) it could not otherwise have been chosen, but that they should have beene utterlie destroied by manie years agone." A somewhat roundabout though quaint way of stating that unless preserved for sport, foxes would have long since been extirpated in England, which, though it may have been true of the home counties with which the chronicler was acquainted, could scarcely have been so in

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respect to the northern and wilder portions of the Midlands and Western counties. As showing how little people travelled in those days, one may cite Harrison, who tells us that he had never travelled more than forty miles from London, and when he wrote his book had not got his library to refer to. He was Vicar of Radwinter, in Essex, and was afterwards transferred to Windsor. After Cokaine, it is Blome (1686) who gives us the best English account of hunting the fox "above ground." He is certainly more orthodox according to modern views, and we see that the fox was being considered as a beast worthy of the chase, even if he were still ranked as vermin. He tells us that, "Foxhunting is of no small esteem, what has been wrote on this subject and what has gone by tradition was that which was practised when the Land was more woody, and when they abounded so much as to be a general nuisance." He continues to say that when the country people wish to rid themselves of this nuisance, "A great company of people, with dogs of all kinds assembled together, to go to such woods and Coverts where they thought they were, and so beset the place, whilst others went in to beat and force them out with some dogs and to be either coursed with dogs or taken with nets and hays set on the outsides for that purpose. But of late years the knowledge of this (as indeed of all other chases) is arrived to far greater perfection, being now become a very healthful recreation to such as delight therein." Thereupon he gives an account of "Foxhunting as it is this day used by the most Expert in this Chase." For which account we must refer to Blome, whose description is much enhanced by three full-page illustrations of fox-hunting. The first shows the hounds being uncoupled, the next the fox making for his earth, and the hounds in full cry, the men on horseback seem to be riding close to the tail of the hounds, and in the background of the third picture they are riding in among them. There are several runners on foot carrying long hunting-poles.

In the earlier days hounds used for the chase of the fox one day, probably hunted hare, or even buck or stag, on another-such as the harriers, which, if we can believe Dr. Caius, were entered to any animal from stag to stoat (see Appendix: Harriers). The first real pack of foxhounds is said to be the one established by Thomas Fownes, Esq., of Stepleton, in Dorsetshire (1730). They were purchased at an immense price by Mr. Bowes, of Yorkshire. A very amusing description is given in "Cranbourne Chase" of the first day's hunting with them in their new country. When the huntsman came with his hounds in the morning, he discovered a great number of sportsmen who were riding the covert and whipping the furzes as for a hare; he therefore halted, and informed Mr. Bowes that he was unwilling to throw off his hounds until the gentlemen had retired and

ceased the slapping of whips, to which his hounds were not accustomed, and he would engage to find a fox in a few minutes if there was one there. The sportsman obeyed orders; a fox was soon found, and a sharp burst across a fence-country with a kill at the end was the result (" Cran. Ch." p. 42). There must have been several packs entered to fox only about the end of the eighteenth century, for an erstwhile Master of the Cheshire Foxhounds had in his possession a horn with the following inscription: "Thomas Boothby Esqre. Tooley Park Leicester. With this horn he hunted the first pack of foxhounds then in England 5 years: born in 1677 died 1752." This pack, which was purchased by "the great Mr. Meynell" in 1782, had been hunted both in Hampshire and in Wiltshire previously by the ancestors of Lord Arundel ("Bad. Lib. Hunting," p. 29).

That there is nothing new under the sun is rather curiously illustrated by the following recent writer on foxhunting, who gives the best modern way of stopping a fox's earth: "The easiest way is to have a faggot well tied (one end smaller than the other) for each opening. At night, when Reynard is out on his rounds, the stopper should go and jam faggots into the earth as tightly as possible. . . . This is much better than the old-fashioned plan, of which we are sometimes reminded in pictures of the venerable earth-stopper, who is seen marching off on his rounds with candle-lantern and spade" (Ency. of Sport).

Compare this "new-fashioned" method with the French way of earth-stopping six hundred years

"il faut que celuy qui les va estouper y soit à minuit ou environ. Et doit estouper en cette manière: Il doit avoir une havette ou une pelle, et doit couper du bois, et faire pour chacune bouche ung petit fagot pour bouter dedans la bouche du tanier." (And he who is going earth-stopping should be there at midnight or thereabouts: he should have a hatchet and a spade, and he should cut some wood to make for each (earth) a little faggot to stop the opening of the earth.) (Roy Modus, fol. xl. r.)

In a foot-note, p. 36, we say in regard to the word "vixen" that it is probably derived from G. füchsin. It would have been more correct to say that both had a common parent-word in the Gothic "fauchen," indicating both male and female fox. A.-S. vos, fox (Grimm).

FRAYING-POST, the tree a stag has rubbed his antlers or frayed against.

By the fraying-post the huntsman used to be able to judge if the stag he wished to harbour was a warrantable stag or not. The greater the fraying-post the larger the deer (Stuart, vol. ii. 551). In old stag-hunting days in France the huntsman who brought the first fraying-post of the season was rewarded by the King, receiving a horse or a new coat, according to his station. In the reign of Francis I. this reward was changed into a gift of money, which was